
SCOPING DOCUMENT

MINNKOTA LUND STATION

EQB Docket No. 05-93-TR-MINNKOTA Lund Station

Prepared by the Staff of the

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Room 300
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

May 2, 2005

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This scoping document is intended to advise the public of the scoping process and the process for the preparation of the Environmental Review document. The scoping decision will identify for the public the issues and alternatives that the EQB Chair has determined are appropriate for inclusion in the environmental review document. The scoping decision will also identify certain issues that will not be included in the environmental review document.

On March 21, 2005, Minnkota Power Cooperative (Minnkota) submitted to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) a route permit application. A Route Permit from the EQB is required before the applicant may go ahead with the project.

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, (Minn. Stat. §§ 116C.51 to 116C.69), a route permit is required before a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) and the associated facilities like that proposed in this project can be constructed. The EQB is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of its consideration of the request for a route permit. The EA evaluates the route specific issues. The EQB has promulgated rules for the administration of the route permitting process. Those rules are found in Minn. Rules chapter 4400.

The application will be reviewed pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Review process procedures in Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2000-2950. On April 1, 2005, the EQB Chair accepted the route permit application as substantially complete and notified the applicant in writing of the decision.

A copy of the Route Permit Application can be viewed on the EQB website:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=16584>

EQB staff expects this project to be placed on the EQB's agenda for a decision in June 2005.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Minnkota proposes to construct a new 230 kV HVTL and a new Lund substation near Baudette in Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota. The proposed facility will be located on a current generating route, approximately 4 acres in size, optioned by Minnkota. The proposed HVTL route and the associated Lund substation currently are in a sparsely populated forested and swampy area.

Construction of the substation and re-conductoring of transmission lines that enter the proposed Lund Substation near Baudette will be required. No change in voltage of the existing 69 kV transmission lines is planned; therefore, no EQB HVTL routing permit would be required for this phase of the combined project.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DOCUMENT

EQB will be conducting the environmental review and producing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project.

Route and Route Permit Procedures

The environmental review document under the siting and routing permit procedures (Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2750, subpart 4) must include the following:

- A. A general description of the proposed project;
- B. A list of any alternative routes or routes that are addressed;
- C. A discussion of the potential impacts of the proposed project and each alternative route or route on the human and natural environment;
- D. A discussion of mitigative measures that could reasonably be implemented to eliminate or minimize any adverse impacts identified for the proposed project and each alternative;
- E. An analysis of the feasibility of each alternative route or route considered;
- F. A list of permits required for the project; and
- G. A discussion of other matters identified in the scoping process.

4.0 EA SCOPING PROCESS

The purpose of the scoping process is to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the development of the scope of the EA by holding a public meeting and soliciting public comment.

On Tuesday, April 26, 2005, the EQB held a public information meeting at the Baudette City Offices. The meeting was held at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to the public about the proposed project, to answer questions, and to allow the public an opportunity to suggest alternatives and impacts that should be considered during preparation of the environmental review document. Written comments may also be submitted; written comments must be submitted no later than May 10, 2005.

Written comments should be mailed to George Johnson, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, 658 Cedar Street, Room 300, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155.

A scoping decision will be made by the EQB Chair. That decision will be made shortly after the close of the comment period. Persons who want to be advised of the Chair's scoping decision can register their names with the EQB at the public meeting, on the EQB website or contact George Johnson at (651) 296-2888 or Larry Hartman at 651 296- 5089. The final scoping decision will also be posted on the EQB website under the Minnkota transmission line project ID.

5.0 DRAFT SCOPE FOR COMPLETION OF EA

The following is a draft outline of the EA scope and contains those areas to be addressed within the EA document.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Purpose and Need for the proposed project
- 1.2 Regulatory requirements appropriate for the project

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL)
 - 2.1.1 General Line Description
 - 2.1.2 Line Design
 - 2.1.3 Right-of-Way Requirements and Acquisition
 - 2.1.4 Construction
 - 2.1.5 Operation and Maintenance
 - 2.1.6 Permits Required
- 2.2 Associated Facilities
 - 2.2.1 Lund Substation
 - 2.2.2 69 kV upgrades

3.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED HVTL

- 3.1 No-build Alternative
- 3.2 Option 1
- 3.3 Option 2
- 3.4 Option 3
- 3.5 Reconductor Alternative
- 3.6 115 kV Rebuild Alternative
- 3.7 Up-grading Existing Facilities

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED HVTL

- 4.1 Air Quality
- 4.2 Biological Resources
 - 4.2.1 Flora
 - 4.2.2 Fauna
 - 4.2.3 Rare & Unique Natural resources
- 4.3 Cultural Resources
 - 4.3.1 Human Settlements
 - 4.3.2 Archaeological & Historic Resources
- 4.4 Geology and Soils
- 4.5 Health and Safety
 - 4.5.1 Electric and Magnetic Fields
 - 4.5.2 Radio and TV Interference

-
- 4.6 Land Use
 - 4.6.1 Zoning & Displacement
 - 4.6.2 Aesthetics & Visual Impacts
 - 4.7 Noise
 - 4.7.1 Corona Noise
 - 4.8 Transportation
 - 4.9 Water Resources
 - 4.9.1 Surface Water
 - 4.9.2 Groundwater
 - 4.9.3 Wetlands
 - 5.0 Other Issues Raised by Public
 - 5.1 Facility effects on existing transmission grid
 - 6.0 Summary of Mitigative Measures
 - 7.0 Project Feasibility

6.0 SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF EA

The Environmental Assessment on the HVTL will be completed by May 25, 2005.

Upon completion of the EA, the EQB will notify those persons who have asked to be notified of the completion. In addition, the EQB will publish notice of the availability of the EA in the EQB Monitor (the bi-weekly newsletter of the agency). The EA will be made available for review and will be posted on the EQB webpage. The EQB will hold a public hearing in Baudette to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and to comment on the Route Permit application. The public will also have a period of time (at least 10 days) after the meeting to submit written comments.

Comments on the EA shall become part of the record in the proceeding, but the Board shall not be required to revise or supplement the EA document.

Signed this 3rd day of May, 2005

STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD



Robert A. Schroeder, Chair